

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer for analyzing whole blood which includes a quality control device for a blood analyzer using whole blood, said blood analyzer comprising:

means for analyzing patient blood samples;

a quality control device including,

means for storing by refrigeration ~~[[for]]~~ control bloods, bloods;

means for restoring ~~to temperature~~ the control bloods to a temperature prescribed by ~~[[the]]~~ a manufacturer of the control bloods, bloods;

means for stirring the control bloods for re-suspension of cells, cells; and

means for sampling the control bloods ~~blood thus prepared,~~

~~wherein said quality control device is incorporated into the blood analyzer.~~

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 19, wherein the means for storing control bloods comprises a specified number of tubes sealed by a bung and arranged in a tube support in contact with a refrigeration block configured to adjust temperature and maintain an optimum temperature for storing the control bloods.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 20, wherein the refrigeration block is a Peltier effect refrigeration block.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 20, wherein the ~~tube support is disconnected from the refrigeration block for~~ means for restoring the temperature of the control bloods includes the tube support configured to disconnect from the refrigeration block.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 21, wherein the means for restoring includes the Peltier effect refrigeration block configured to receive current which ~~supplying the Peltier effect refrigeration block~~ is interrupted for a specified period of time such that ~~for restoration of the temperature of the control bloods is~~ restored.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 21, wherein the Peltier effect refrigeration block is controlled to be reset and maintain quality control to ~~[[its]]~~ a utilization temperature according to specifications of the manufacturer.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 20, wherein the means for ~~[[the]]~~ stirring includes the tube support articulated about a hinge of the refrigeration block and configured to operate by inverting ~~operates by rocking and/or inversion formed by the tube support articulated about a hinge of the refrigeration block.~~

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 25, wherein an angle of inversion of the tube support is between 100° and 180°.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 19, wherein the means for ~~storing~~ stirring includes low-speed Vortex stirring means.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 19, wherein the means for sampling includes a needle configured to draw blood from [[the]] tubes.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 28, wherein the needle is configured to be driven in a transverse movement over [[the]] tubes of patient blood samples to be analyzed and the control bloods as well as over a counting block comprising mixing and rinsing tanks and is configured to be driven in a vertical movement to penetrate into the tubes by piercing [[the]] bungs or by descending into the counting block comprising mixing and rinsing tanks to carry out rinsing or dilutions ~~of the blood~~.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 29, wherein the bungs are configured to be pierced ~~the piercing of the bungs is effected~~ when the tubes on ~~their~~ a support are in a high or low position.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 19, further comprising programmable processing means for checking that values obtained by passing through ~~each~~ a quality control procedure correspond to limit values and expected values of the control blood.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 31, wherein the processing means triggers an alarm [[if]] when the values obtained during running of the quality control procedure are outside the expected values limits.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 37
[[19]], ~~further comprising means for~~ wherein the triggering unit a quality control procedure
triggers the quality control procedure either directly by an operator input, [[or]]
automatically, or via an external connection to a control unit.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 19,
wherein transfer and analysis of data are affected via an internal or external network
implementing standards of HL7, ASTM, or XML.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A blood analyzer device according to claim 20,
wherein the tubes include ~~means for identification and tracking by~~ barcodes, electronic chips,
~~and/or~~ or magnetic labels for identifying and tracking the tubes.

Claim 36 (Canceled).

Claim 37 (New): A blood analyzer according to claim 19, wherein the quality control
device further includes a triggering unit which triggers a quality control procedure to
determine whether the analyzer is functioning properly based on a comparison using the
control bloods.

Claim 38 (New): A blood analyzer for analyzing whole blood which includes a
quality control device, said blood analyzer comprising:

an analyzing unit which analyzes patient blood samples;

a quality control device including,

a storing unit which stores, by refrigeration, control bloods,

a restoring unit which restores the control bloods to a temperature prescribed
by a manufacturer of the control bloods,
a stirring unit which stirs the control bloods for re-suspension of cells, and
a sampling unit which samples the control bloods.